

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138540

CINCPAC FOR COL MCCLAIN AND POLAD;

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI PASS TO HICOM AND STATUS LNO

FOLLOWING REPEAT WELLINGTON 1988 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO MANILA USUN NEW YORK SUVA 26 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1988

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP: APER, WS

SUBJECT: UNDP ORDERED OUT OF WESTERN SAMOA

REFS A. WELLINGTON 1227 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 081272 (NOTAL)

C. SELDEN/SNEIDER (EA) CORRESPONDENCE

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REFTELS) FAILURE OF UNDP TO RENEW
CONTRACT OF WILLIAM B HUSSEY AS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR WESTERN PACIFIC WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT
WESTERN SAMOA, PROMPTED PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN
SAMOA, MATA'AFU, TO SEND AN ULTIMATUM TO UNDP ADMINISTRATOR
RUDOLPH PETERSON DEMANDING THAT HUSSEY'S CONTRAC BE
RENEWED. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED IN HIS MESSAGE TO
PETERSON THAT IF HUSSEY WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CONINUE THEN
UNDP COULD START LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VENUE FOR ITS
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REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE QUOTE I DO NOT WISH TO SEE

ANY MORE UN HEADQUARTERS HERE END QUOTE.

2. HUSSEY'S CONTRACT ENDED ON APRIL 30 AND WAS NOT RENWED. SINCE THAT TIME HUSSEY HAS REMAINED IN WESTERN SAMOA ENSCONCED IN THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S HOME AS THE GUEST OF THE WESTERN SAMOAN GOVERNMENT AND HE HAS PURSUED A VIGOROUS AREA-WIDE CAMPAIGN INCLUDING SEVERAL LETTERS TO THIS EMBASSY IN WHICH HE HAS ATTEMPTED MAINATIN UNDP REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN WESTERN SAMOA AS WELL AS TO RETAIN HIS UNDP POSITION.

3. ON MAY 15 ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON WROTE TO PRIME MINISTER MATA'AFU STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXTENSION OF MR. HUSSEY'S SERVICES. IN REPLY ON MAY 80 THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THE UNDP THAT QUOTE AFTER VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MY GOVERNMENT GIVES YOU TWO MONTHS AS FROM THE DATE OF THIS CABLE TO REMOVE YOUR OFFICE FROM APIA. THIS DECISION IS FINAL. END QUOTE. THE STORY WAS ANNOUNCED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON NEW ZEALAND RADIO ON MONDAY, JUNE 24.

4. THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM APIA, TELLS ME THAT THE ULTIMATUM HAS CREATED AN UPROAR AND THAT HIS ADVICE TO HIS AND THOSE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE NATIONALS IN WESTERN SAMOA WITH THE UNDP IS TO STAY OUT OF THIS IMBROGLIO.

5. THE PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT MR. RAY FORT, AMERICAN ACTING UNDP REPRESENTATIVE IN APIA, HAS STATED THAT ALL STAFF WILL LEAVE WESTERN SAMOA BY THE DEADLINE DATE OF JULY 30 FOR TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA UNTIL ANOTHER PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC BASE CAN BE FOUND.

FYI: THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT FIJI MAY BECOME THE PERMANENT VENUE OF THE UNDP OPERATION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON HAS FOR SOME TIME FAVORED THE FIJIAN LOCATION DUE TO SUPERIOR ACCESS TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS COMPARED TO APIA. END FYI.
SELDEN

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